



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

FORSYTH COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

This body convened in the Court House, on Saturday the 23d inst. In the absence of President Lehman First Vice President, T. J. Valentine called the meeting to order. A lively interest was manifested in the proceedings, throughout. The reports from the various subordinate clubs were especially interesting and encouraging. Mr. Bevel, Mr. Valentine, Mr. Pfaff, Mr. Reich, Mr. Alsbaugh, Mr. Elliott, Mr. Newlin and others representing their respective clubs, gave encouraging reports and each seemed to be impressed with a deep interest in the matter of securing a thorough and active co-operation among the farmers of the State.

In considering a programme for the next meeting, Mr. Valentine, in a clear cut talk of a few minutes, presented most forcibly, what he conceived to be a matter of supreme importance to our State—the disposition of our farmer boys to leave the farm. He asked "Can we do nothing to arrest it? What is our duty in this important matter?" Other speeches were made, all expressing sympathy with the views of Mr. Valentine. Indeed so deeply did the meeting feel that the Executive Committee presented the following question to be discussed at the next meeting and it was unanimously adopted;

How can we make farm life more attractive and desirable to our sons and daughters?

Thereupon, on motion it was resolved that a call meeting of the club be held at the Court House in Winston on the fourth Saturday in November for the discussion of this subject, the meeting to be called to order at 10 o'clock a. m. sharp.

The Executive committee express the desire for a full attendance of the members, not only of the county club but of members of the subordinate clubs and that every one come prepared to give his views on this important subject.

On motion the meeting adjourned to the 4th Saturday in November. T. J. VALENTINE, Pres. pro. tem.

E. C. DULL, Secretary.

TRINITY CLUB.

Subject—Wheat Culture.

Dr. Parker.—We discussed at our July meeting, fall seeding. It is well for me to recapitulate some of what was then said. Clover land, pea crops and other green crops that are intended for that purpose should be turned in July. Turn four inches deep, harrow and let it lay till the last of September, then cross plough. Some use turn plough, others scooter or bull tongue plough in cross ploughings. At seeding time if the land is not packed by rains use the drill. By its use you get the seed at a uniform depth, your fertilizer evenly distributed, and the land in good tilth to promote germination. Use some reliable brand of phosphate. Have drill in good condition, clean surface of all things liable to clog it. If land is level drill three pecks each way, making one and a half bushels per acre, with an equal amount of fertilizer each way. If hilly you can't drill each way with safety from washing. Put three hundred pounds of fertilizer to the acre. Be sure your seed is clear of filth. The last season I saw too much of cockle, rye, oats &c, in wheat fields. I regret it and hope in the future to see the fields clear of these cumberers. Watch the drill closely and see that it distributes the wheat and fertilizer regularly. I dislike to see the wheat and phosphate unevenly distributed causing the grain to grow in belts and ripen unevenly. Sow Fultz wheat; when drilled only one way use one bushel of wheat to the acre. Sow from the 15th to the last of

October. We can't afford to quit sowing wheat. It is an important crop. Western competition should not cause us to give up the wheat crop.

We can't afford to let our club diminish in interest. In every agricultural community they are organizing for mutual aid and comfort. We are about the oldest in working order. I have reasons for encouragement. I recently had the pleasure of meeting a number of farmers of Guilford at Oak Ridge. They have very promising material. I predict for that club a bright and useful career. I wish to return the thanks of our club to our efficient Secretary. The editor of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER paid a handsome tribute to his work. While he is not vain, such encouragement will increase his zeal in this laudable calling.

P. H. Joyner.—My plan is to plant wheat before the 20th of October in order to avoid the fly. Those nearer the mountains may plant earlier. I concur in Dr. Parker's plan of seeding. Then put ditches and water furrows in proper order and see after them in the winter. Make water furrows to lead from all sags and hillside ditches to keep water from passing over the land to avoid leaching off the fertilizers. The object of these is to keep off standing water and washing away the soil. I am satisfied that it is wrong to put 400 pounds of fertilizer to the acre in the fall. Put 100 to the acre in the fall and 200 to 300 in the spring and harrow it in well. The 100 pounds in the fall will give the wheat plants a good send off without serious loss by the winter leaching. Always harrow and roll the wheat while applying the fertilizer in the spring. Do this if you do not fertilize in the spring. Then with a good reaper you will be sure to house a large yield of the best of wheat.

A. Parker.—I favor the Kivett and Mediterranean varieties of wheat. The Kivett on high dry land, the Mediterranean for sprouty lands, it being more hardy. The flour from the latter is not so white but is rich and lively. The beards are an objection as they render the chaff almost worthless, and disagreeable to work among. Sow from the 15th of October to the first of November. Always drill both ways five pecks to the acre, using from 200 to 400 pounds of fertilizer on each acre, of some standard brands. If you intend seeding to clover in the spring following (which you should do as far as possible) give it a light top dressing of stable manure.

R. W. Reddock.—Kivett and purple straw are the varieties I prefer. The Kivett is a white wheat and brings about ten cents per bushel more than the red varieties. Its only fault is its liability to sprout in the shock in rainy weather. This is caused by its large open heads which hold many times more water than other kinds. The grains are large, and the chaff-caps set in a position to catch and hold the rain water. This fault seldom occurs as wet weather is rare at that season.

I want my ground for wheat ploughed as deep as the means at hand will admit, say ten or twelve inches, sufficient to hold the rain fall as near as possible, and thereby avoid so much water furrowing, and keep the water in the land. This will save all the plant food retained from the atmosphere by falling rain in its descent. Be sure to sow clean seed and thereby reap wheat instead of filth.

D. M. Payne.—If we reap we must sow; and as we sow, so will reap. The sluggard who sows filth, reaps filth, eats filth—is filthy. He communicates filth to his neighbor in his grist, and in his so-called hospitality. Filth in any form is filth, and should be detested; especially in an edible form. The most efficient plan to get rid of it is for all decent men to frown it down. Clean seeding is characteristic of a good

farmer. I have often made the assertion that if all would unite in effort, in ten years we could totally exterminate all filth that is common to small grains.

I think I am too orthodox to believe that wheat turns to cheat. If it did it would certainly turn to wheat again with the opposite treatment. If a part of wheat turns to cheat why not all of with the same treatment. If a certain treatment causes one grain of wheat to turn to cheat all the grains treated that way would become cheat and the crop would be extremely uncertain. God don't do his work that way. Filth with grain is the legitimate offspring of that form of negligence called laziness. Clean your fields and bins of it and you will never be troubled with it. This accords with Moses' account of the creation in Genesis.

D. M. PAYNE, Secretary.

IN PITT COUNTY.

We clip the following from the *Greenville Reflector*:

The members of the Farmers' Club met in the Court House in Greenville, on Saturday, October 9th organized and elected officers for one year. John S. Harris was elected President, Allen Warren Vice President and Francis Joyner Secretary.

The Executive Committee consists of J. B. Yellowly, Allen Warren, Guilford Mooring, G. T. Tyson and John Flanagan.

A motion was adopted that the Club meet Saturday before the second Sunday in each month at eleven o'clock a. m.

It was moved and carried that a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be furnished to both the county papers for publication, with an earnest request for all farmers to attend our next meeting.

J. B. YELLOWLY, Ch'm.
J. D. COX, Sec'y.

NEW CLUB IN JERICO.

The *Davie Times* informs us that the farmers met at Jericho last Saturday evening and organized a farmers club with fourteen members. J. P. Kurfess, President; O. H. Spencer, Vice-President and P. Turner, Secretary.

A meeting of farmers will be held in Third Creek section of Rowan county next Saturday to organize a farmers' club.

A BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

At a meeting of the State and county agricultural societies of Virginia, held a few weeks ago, a movement was set on foot to procure the establishment, by the State legislature, of a State board of agriculture, with functions similar to those of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture including the management of State and county fairs, the direction of State agricultural experiment stations, and the holding of farmers' institutes, the entire scheme being modeled after the one now in successful operation in Ohio, and which has unquestionably been of inestimable advantage to the agricultural interests of the State.—*Farm and Fireside*.

VARIETY OF FEED.

Young calves, especially those intended to be kept for cows, should be taught to eat a great variety of food. Cows worth anything as milkers are voracious and not dainty. This is one reason why the much petted single cow of the poor man is commonly superior for milking qualities to the best in a large herd receiving only ordinary care. Variety of food is as conducive to health and appetite for stock as it is for people. It is necessary from the fact that no one kind of food is a full ration, and when one alone is fed the appetite palls because then food offered does not meet the requirements of the system.

LIFE ON THE FARM.

A Humorous Writer Tells what He Knows about It.

Our bowels melt with mercy towards these Sudras of the soil, whom the high and haughty Bramins of commerce and coin "spurn with the foot as a stranger cur." We know their sorrows and sufferings; the trial of temper in stumpy fields; the vileness of plantain; the wickedness of weeds; the deceit of cockle; the "birth-sin" in wild onion. While the average citizen can hardly hold his own against the world, the flesh and the devil, the unhappy prisoner of "land measure"—perch, rod and rood—is tormented by the Apaches of the vegetable, mineral and animal kingdoms.

The farmer has our pity. He is the drudge—the helot of political economy. Everybody rides him; nobody carries him. He is the victim of hog-cholera, high tariff and fraudulent fertilizers. Pastoral poetry may delude him, for the moment, into a dream of rural bliss, but the sheriff rudely wakes him to his wretchedness.

He can't strike for increase of wages or shorter time of toil. The mechanic has his guild, fixes his own pay and hours for work. The cobbler is a "Knight," the plowman a dumb driven ox. The man of tools follows his trade often in warm factory and always sheltered from the weather. The farmer must rise with the dawn, face the storm, and forsake the field only with the departing day. In city or town, superior schools train the child of the poorest laborer for ten months in the year. Short sessions, and frequently indifferent instruction, and furnished the country patron. And indeed the body can be spared but for a brief period from the farm.

A war tariff in these years of peace plunders, by a hundred cunning devices, the land-owner. The "robber barons" of monopoly have him by the throat and their hands upon his purse. They are more merciless than the floods that sweep away his crops.

The earth is treacherous. Weeds choke the good grain; wire grass entraps the innocent timothy; sassafras flourishes in immortal vigor where wheat pines and perishes. Let the husbandman set out a vine or sprout a seed. It must run the gauntlet of the frost. The mole hunts for the root to destroy. The grub gnaws it. Caterpillar, cut-worm, borer and countless enemies, winged or creeping, with tooth or sting, prey upon it. Mildew, rust and blight fall on it. Potato bug, turnip beetle, bean weevil, tomato worm, leaf slug, onion maggot, rose chaffer, cabbage lice, lead an army of vegetable pests in forays upon the fruits of his toil. Every invader lays eggs by the thousand and hatches a new brood, in the run of a single sun, to ravage the rewards of rural industry. The air is dim with buzzing vandals and the earth alive with crawling devourers.

The untaxed cur destroys his flock. The sly fox and slippery weasel revel in his hennerly. The hawk by day and the owl by night capture the survivors of the gapes, straddles and cholera.

His capital in the farm stock is a precarious investment. Murrain and black tongue slay his cows. The bot-fly is ever intent on fastening its deadly egg to the horse. The scab, the fluke, the rot, ruin the fold.

The elements baffle his hopes. The Sabean make incursions upon him and levy a "war tariff" on his property. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, with the usual lingual limberness of the small statesman, "darken counsel by words without knowledge," and rather side with Satan and the marauding Chaldeans.

The modern Job, sitting amid his broom-sedge furrows, with the larvae of "infant industries" feeding

with festering ulcers upon his life vexed with the gabble of the Tem-anite, the Shubite and the Naamathite—is it a strange thing that he "aggravates his voice," roars against his tormenters and repines at his miserable lot—Despair on an ash-heap?—*Richmond Christian Advocate*.

State Items.

—There are now 114 students in Trinity college.

—A Tobacco factory is to be built at Liberty, Randolph county.

—The farmers complain that the cotton crop will be short, but a bountiful corn crop will be harvested. —*Tar River Talker*.

—The late freeze did little damage in this county to tobacco, we are informed, as Caldwell tobacco had been mostly housed.—*Lenoir Topie*.

—The largest sweet potato in the State may be seen at Sears' livery stable. It was grown in Durham and measures twenty-five inches.—*Durham Recorder*.

—The fall sowing of small grain has been suspended owing to the drouth. The result will be a greatly decreased area of acreage of this crop.

—The electric lights were turned on at Asheville last Wednesday night. But four burners were lighted but these were sufficient to light nearly every portion of the city.

—Mr. Micajah Henley's grist mill about 4 miles west of town was burned Monday night. Everything destroyed. It is thought to have been robbed and then burned.—*Ashboro Courier*.

—The State convicts, under the supervision of Gen. W. G. Lewis, State Engineer, are now at work in Washington county on the "Old Turnpike Road." It will connect with "Long Acre Road," five miles from Plymouth.—*Elizabeth City Economist*.

—We are disappointed in the cotton crop. We will not make more than three-fifths of a crop. We have never seen it come in so short and so slow. It just ain't made. That is all.—*Scotland Neck Democrat*.

—Two hundred and forty-five pupils are now enrolled at the graded school. About one hundred and twenty of these are in the pay department. The school is approaching a solid basis and accomplishing much good.—*Newbern Journal*.

—There were 1,210,920 pounds of tobacco held on hand by our buyers October 1, 1886.—Mr. A. H. Ball has shown us the largest hen egg we have seen. It weighs 3 1/2 ounces, or 150 grains apothecary's weight more than two common sized eggs.—*Henderson Gold Leaf*.

—Walnut Cove is on a big boom. We learn that there is to be four new dwellings, besides a livery stable and several new stores to go up immediately. Lots are being sold very rapidly. There has been 15 sold within the last week. Six were sold in one day.—*Town Fork News*.

—Wednesday morning at 3:30 o'clock the Pioneer mills were discovered to be on fire. It is thought to be the work of an incendiary. The property was valued at \$35,000—about half the loss is covered by insurance. It will be rebuilt. Messrs. C. M. Hawkins and Peter M. Wilson, are the chief losers.—*Raleigh Chronicle*.

—On Monday night, the 18th, the barn of Mr. Samuel Pressly, son of Rev. Jno E. Pressly, of Coddle Creek, was burned to the ground with its contents. There were two good mules in it, both of which were burned to death. It is supposed to be the work of an incendiary, though no clue has yet been obtained as far as we can learn.—*Concord Register*.